

Drum2Change with World Music Drumming



Hawthorne Elementary is Making it Happen!



WE ARE Hawthorne is one of 14 elementary schools in Elkhart Community Schools. The corporation serves over 13,000 students, while we serve about 500 Pre-K through 6th grade on the south side of Elkhart in an urban setting.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES Hawthorne is 63% Hispanic, 24% black, 9% white and 4% multiracial. The ELL population is 63% of the student body. A full-time translator communicates with families to increase parent support. Economic struggles resulted in 86% free and reduced lunch rate.

OUR TEACHER Dawn Ashton teaches general music at our school. Thanks to corporation administrative priorities, 20% of her teaching time is allocated for Hawthorne's growing drumming program, Drum2Change. This program, based on the World Music Drumming curriculum designed by Dr. Will Schmid, is currently in its 10th year and continues to involve larger numbers of students in this unique learning experience. Miss Ashton updates and improves the program by attending WMD training workshops over the summer.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE District administrators have compiled data showing the interventional impact of this program. The percent of all Hawthorne drummers passing standardized tests is significantly higher than the Hawthorne non-drummers. Drummers in the "Roots of Rhythm" performance ensemble often outscore their peers from across the district. After 10 years, we can show that WMD students continue in music and graduate from high school.

OUR STEPS Drum2Change utilizes African and Caribbean rhythms and instruments. The WMD curriculum is designed to develop respect and focus, teach teamwork, and increase music skills. Its usefulness and effectiveness are improved through alignment to state standards.

Every Hawthorne student in grades 2-6 is introduced to the WMD curriculum in the first three weeks of regular music class. Afterwards, students can choose to drum for 40 minutes bi-weekly throughout the year. Almost 50% of the students elect to be involved in this extra music time.

The performance drumming ensemble, "Roots of Rhythm," is chosen from the best drummers. "Roots of Rhythm" practices an additional hour every week after school. The success of this group is dependent on parental commitment and volunteer involvement.

Every year, "Roots of Rhythm" represents our school and city by performing drum concerts at cultural events for groups including: Noon Rotary, the City Council, the Salvation Army, Kiwanis, the School Board, nursing homes, other elementary schools, local churches, and local high schools. Once a year "Roots of Rhythm" travels to Indiana Wesleyan University to perform for and with music majors. In the past, "Roots of Rhythm" performed at the IMEA State Conference and presented at the IUPUI/IUSA Conference on Urban Education.

IN OUR OWN WORDS "Roots of Rhythm impacted my life in a tremendous way. It taught me to never be afraid to try new things...a small drumming group changed my life. Roots of Rhythm will live on in my heart forever." -former drummer

"Students involved in this program learn to concentrate, to listen to each other as they drum, to focus on instructions given by the lead drummer/teacher and to work as a group. When they perform publicly they gain confidence. These skills and this confidence transfer to the classroom. It is beautiful to see students develop and blossom as a result of this program." -3rd grade teacher

"Drummers are organized, participate in class, assist others, and perform very well on lessons and assessments." -6th grade Teacher

"Your process teaches the students many things beside just drumming - responsibility, hard work, setting goals, what it takes to be part of a group, what goes into performance, deadlines, and many other life skills." -Becky Skillman, Former Lieutenant Governor of Indiana

For more information about our school or corporation, email: Mary Teeter, Principal, mteeter@elkhart.k12.in.us or visit our website: <http://elkhart.k12.in.us/>